THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The telephone tariff in India is low when compared to many other countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comparison was made with reference to the call charges rental for telephones and international subscriber dialled calls from other countries to India.

(c) The Telecom. Services have not been deteriorating but are rather improving progressively.

Athreya Committee Report

121. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Athreya Committee report on restructuring of DOT and MTNL has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, what is the stage of implementation of the recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the MTNL staff is still considered on deputation from DOT, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to pay deputation allowance to the employees from 1986 till the final absorption in MTNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d) The Athreya Committee Report on restructuring of Department of Telecom. is under active consideration of the Government. At present the staff working in the Delhi/Bombay Units of MTNL are on deemed deputation basis without deputation allowance.

Pension cases pending with Chief Post Master General, Calcutta

122. SHRI SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pension cases of the widows of erstwhile employees of the department have been pending for settlement for many years with the Chief Post Master General, West Bengal, Calcutta;

(b) whether Government propose to direct the authorities to dispose of these cases expeditiously; and

(c) what is the number of cases that have come to the notice during the last one year and the number of disposals made and the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trunk Call system in Andhra Pradesh

123. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are frequent complaints that trunk calls made to various places from Andhra Pradesh not linked by STD do not get through and trunk calls from outside the state are well attended and calls get through; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure better performance of Andhra Pradesh TELECOM in the matter of getting trunk calls getting through ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) The efficiency of trunk call put through in Andhra Pradesh Telecom. including the places not linked by STD is one of the best in the country and it has been found to be ranking No. 1 during the months of April, August, September, October, November and December, 1992. However to improve it further following steps are being taken :—

1. effective supervision in the trunk exchanges.

2. monitoring the performance of trunk circuits.

3. progressively converting the rural exchanges and overhead lines by more reliable electronic system.

Electronic Exchanges in Gujarat and Maharashtra

124. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new Electronic Telephone Exchanges already set up during the year 1992-93 at each place in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the details of Electronic Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during the year 1993-94 in Gujarat and Maharashtra; and

(c) by when these Telephone exchanges are likely to be set up at each place.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) :(a) During the year 1992-93, 100 new electronic exchanges in Gujarat and 133 new electronic exchanges in Maharashtra including Bombay have been set-up. Details are available in Statement I & II respectively (*See* below).

(b) During the year 1993-94, 196 electronic exchanges in Gujarat and 367 electronic exchanges in Maharashtra including Bombay are proposed to be set up. Details are placed at Annexure III & IV respectively. For smaller exchanges locations are to be finalised after Budget allocations and depending on registered demand.

(c) All the exchanges detailed in statement-III and IV are likely to be commissioned progressively during 1993-94.

Statement—I

List of New Electronic Exchanges Commissioned in Gujarat During 1992-93.

Sl. No.	Name of the Exchange	Capacity (No. of lines)
1	2	3
1	Vasna	8.176K
2.	Vastrapur	2 K
3.	Shertha	88
4.	Hansalpur	88
5.	Changodhai	88
6.	Kujad	88
7.	Fedra	88
8.	Kamjala	88
9.	Vehlal	88
10.	Sapar	384
11.	Khirasara	88
12.	Maliyasana	88
13.	Kerali	56
14.	Patidad	56
15.	Lilapar	56
16.	Valadhari	56
17.	Khareda	56
18.	Khakarechi	56
19.	Khorana	88
20.	Pandesara	1K
21.	T. Mkt. Lev. 63	4K
22.	Balkas	88
23.	Bar Bodhan	88
24.	Limkheda	88
25.	Vadodra City	1K
26.	Bhatpur	88